Demand to spend One Tenth of Budget on Health Services

†2138. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to spend one tenth amount of the Budget on health services;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) No such specific demand has been made. However, there is always a general demand to increase public expenditure on all social sectors including health care. Budgetary allocation on different sectors is decided keeping in view the availability of the overall budgetary resources and sectoral priorities. The health expenditure in the country as a percentage of GDP has been approximately 5.2% around 1997. The Central Government has been making every effort to increase its contribution to the public health expenditure. The overall Plan outlay in the health sector in the 9th Five Year Plan has been 4.01% of the total plan outlay as compared to 3.24% during the 8th Five Year Plan. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes. Health infrastructure in certain States has also been upgraded with World Bank assistance.

Recognised Medical Colleges in NER

2139. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recognized medical colleges in the NER; and

(b) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to open new medical colleges in the region particularly in the State of Assam ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.